

Northwest Region Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY06 and FY07) and Accomplishments (FY05 and FY06)						
Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/05	2006	2007	How Progress Will Be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
Monitoring						
<i>Expand WCGOP coverage to open access vessels making groundfish landings</i>	Observer data was collected, analyzed and released for the nearshore rockfish fisheries in OR and CA.	Improve upon representativeness of the observer data of the nearshore fleets. Complete DQ/DA checks, analysis and release of data.	Build upon lessons learned from FY06 coverage and continue to collect, analyze and release observer data for use in management	Observer data analyses released as per the schedule arranged with management	Observer report posted on NWFSC website	Sep 06; Sep 07
<i>Implement mandatory catch monitoring program for shore-based whiting fishery, possibly with camera or other technological observation systems</i>	Electronic monitoring systems were deployed on the entire shore-based hake fishery (functioning under an EFP) in the 2004 and 2005 seasons. 2005 results are being reviewed for release soon.	Electronic monitoring will be deployed on the shore-based fleet (functioning under an EFP) during the 2006 season	Shift shore-based hake fishery from an EFP to a regulated fishery if the 2005 and 2006 EFP results show the ability to quantify discard in this fleet. If the discard can not be quantified, management of the fishery will need revision.	Electronic monitoring of the 2005 and 2006 results collated and report released. PFMC consideration of long-term regulatory package.	Report summarizing study results completed. Regulations in place for the fishery.	Dec 05; Dec 06; Apr 07
<i>Explore expanding the vessel monitoring system program to cover commercial open access and fleets that target groundfish</i>	As of 9/30/05, draft EA on VMS expansion available for PFMC review, with action scheduled for their 11/05 meeting.	Send proposed rule on VMS implementation for open access fisheries out for public review and comment.	1/1/07, VMS final rule scheduled for implementation. Final rule expected to be published by 6/1/06, but implementation held for 1/1/07.	Timely publication of proposed and final rules.	PFMC VMS recommendation for the open access fishery results in 100% coverage of the commercial fishery which will greatly aid in maintaining the integrity of depth-based area management areas.	11/05 -- Complete, PFMC adopted VMS regulatory recommendation for open access fisheries.
<i>Update NWFSC bycatch model with 2001-2005 WCGOP data to improve precision of bycatch rate estimates</i>	Bycatch model has been updated with observer program data. COMPLETE					
<i>Work with the states to improve the landings receipt system, possibly moving to electronic fish tickets.</i>	As of 9/30/05, Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN) reported to PFMC on cost and logistical obstacles to electronic fish ticket system implementation.	Continue discussion of conversion logistics with PacFIN Data Committee and State partners.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Research						
<i>Conduct further observer data analysis to refine the program's sampling design and fleet monitoring strategies</i>	Observer program staff is working with outside consultant reviewing and running analyses of the program's current sampling design and developing improvements	Complete review of sampling design review and implement any necessary changes.		Review of the sampling design will be completed and any needed sampling plan changes will be incorporated		Jul-06
<i>Conduct research to further refine bycatch reduction trawl (in collaboration with ODFW)</i>	Data collection complete	Complete research report				
Management						

<i>Complete Biological Opinion update on the effects of West Coast groundfish fishery on ESA-listed salmon species</i>	The current biological opinion, 12/15/99, has been reinitiated for both the bottom and mid-water trawl sectors. NWFSC has completed an analysis of the salmon bycatch in the bottom trawl fisheries based on observer data covering the 2002-2004 seasons; completed 8/31/05. Bycatch in the 2005 whiting fishery is being reported and updated inseason.	The reinitiation of the groundfish consultation will be completed by Feb. 2006. The NWFSC will update the salmon bycatch analysis for the 2005 bottom trawl fishery by October 2006.			Completion of the reinitiated consultation.	
<i>Draft Biological Assessment on effects of West Coast groundfish and halibut fisheries on ESA-listed seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles.</i>	Began discussions between NMFS AKR/NWR, AKFSC/NWFSC and USFWS about necessary information for Biological Assessment. Compiling seabird, mammal, and turtle data from WCGOP.	May need to submit two separate Biological Assessments, one consulting with USFWS on seabirds and one an internal NMFS consultation on mammals and turtles. These Biological Assessments will begin the process to determine whether Biological Opinions are needed.	To Be Determined.	Depends on discussions with USFWS.	Completion of Biological Assessment.	December 2006.
<i>Implement a full retention program for the shorebased whiting fishery</i>	The 2005 season participants were monitored for maximized retention via electronic monitoring systems.			See entries under Monitoring section		
<i>Work with PFMC in their efforts to develop an ITQ program for the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery</i>	As of 9/30/05, participate in PFMC TIQ analytical team.	Participate in TIQ analytical team.	Dependent on outcomes of analyses and committee considerations in 2006.	Analyses and committee meetings necessary to forward the TIQ EIS drafted and held, respectively. Regular reports to PFMC	With analytical team, for 2005, complete community support alternatives to be available for analysis.	11/05 - Complete, reviewed, revised, and forwarded for analysis by PFMC
<i>With PFMC, develop an FMP amendment to support the Council's preferred alternative in the completed Bycatch FEIS</i>	As of 9/30/05, draft Amendment 18 completed and available for PFMC review, with adoption scheduled for their 11/05 meeting.	Send Amendment 18 to the Groundfish FMP out for public review via MSAct process, and approve/ disapprove/partially approve. Via PFMC process, finalize bycatch work plan.	Begin implementation of Amendment 18 bycatch work plan. As of 11/15/05, work plan primarily calls for: requiring permits and reducing capacity in the open access fishery, expanding the use of area-closure management to protect species other than overfished stocks, exploring program level changes that will facilitate faster input of observer data into PFMC management process.	PFMC policy and regulatory recommendations, followed by NMFS regulatory implementation.	For 2005, develop and complete through PFMC, Amendment 18 to the Groundfish FMP, on bycatch minimization	11/05 - Complete, Amendment 18 finalized by PFMC
<i>Explore capacity reduction programs for the open access fisheries</i>	This program has been on hold during PFMC considerations of a VMS program for open access fisheries (see Monitoring). PFMC completed its deliberations on that issue in 11/05 and, as part of its Amendment 18 to the groundfish FMP (see above,) determined that it would begin to develop a permitting program for the open access fisheries.	Begin PFMC discussions and develop analytical documents on open access permitting.	To Be Determined.	Depends on PFMC, although NMFS will support starting analytical discussions in 2006.	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Education/Outreach						
<i>Develop seabirds and fisheries interaction website for NWR</i>	contingent on Biological Assessment, see above					

<i>Continue to work with the Pacific Council on development of its communications plan</i>	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing
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